

13' having an accessory secured thereto, the attachment being securable to the free end of the tampon string, the accessory providing a means for locating the free end of the tampon string and/or for preventing the free end of the tampon string from being retracted into the vagina of a user of the tampon.

9. The apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the accessory is a tab comprising a length of tape secured around an end of the tampon extension string.

10. The apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the accessory is a tassel secured to the extension string.

11. The apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the accessory is a soft, hollow, spherical body having a polar axis and which is collapsible upon axial compression along its polar axis.

12. The apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the accessory is a tab comprising a length of tape secured around an end of the tampon extension string, and the tab comprises a peel-off backing which, when removed, exposes a sticky surface.

Please cancel claims 13-19 without prejudice.

13' 20. (amended) Apparatus comprising:

a tampon;

a tampon string attached to the tampon, the tampon string having a first end attached to a tampon and a second, free end distal from the tampon, the tampon string having a length of 9" to 13"

Please cancel claim 21 without prejudice.

22. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the tampon string has a length of 11" to 12.5" (27.9-31.8 cm).

23. (amended) Apparatus comprising:

a tampon;

a tampon string attached to the tampon, the tampon string having a first end attached to a tampon and a second, free end distal from the tampon, the tampon string having a width of 1/4" to 3/4"

Please cancel claims 24 and 25 without prejudice.

26. (Twice Amended) Apparatus comprising:

84
a tampon;

a tampon string attached to the tampon, the tampon string having a first end attached to a tampon and a second, free end distal from the tampon, the tampon string having a width of 1/8" to 1/2"; and

an accessory attached adjacent the free end of the tampon string. - -

Please cancel claims 27 and 28 without prejudice.

REMARKS

The s claims have been amended. For convenience in prosecution, all claims are repeated herein, even those which are not amended herein. Two sets of claims are included, one set showing the changes made in this response (attached) and one clean set (set out above). No new matter has been added to the application.

Claims 1, 8, 18, 19, 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph. The claims have been amended to overcome this rejection.

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yeo (5533990). Claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 21 to overcome this rejection.

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Thompson (4332251). Claim 13 has been cancelled.

Claims 23, 25, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Petrus et al. (5417224). Claim 23 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 24 to overcome this rejection.

Claims 21, 22, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yeo (5533990). Claim 20 is now respectfully submitted to be patentable as there is no suggestion for modifying Yeo as suggested by the Examiner, other than in the present application.

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thompson. Claim 16 has been cancelled.

Claims 1-7, 14, 15, 17, 27, 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1, 5-10 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6312419. These claims have been cancelled.